

**April 13, 2010**

**WASHINGTON, DC** - Today, U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24) joins Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente, Jr. in urging Mohawk Valley residents to fill out their 2010 Census form. With only 3 days remaining until the April 16, 2010 deadline, 3 percent fewer Oneida County residents and 5 percent fewer Herkimer County residents have participated than in the 2000 Census.

"We must make sure that all Mohawk Valley residents understand the critical importance of an accurate count for the 2010 census," **Arcuri said**. "With only 3 days remaining, too many communities are still lagging in participation. In order for our communities throughout the Mohawk Valley to get their fair share of funding for everything from schools to roads to senior centers, we must count as many people as possible. During these tough economic times, we can't afford to lose out on critical federal funds."

"It is imperative that every Oneida County resident responds to the 2010 Census as this response will drastically affect the funding our County receives as well as our representation in Congress," **said Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente, Jr.** "Without this vital information, our County could be greatly hindered as we move forward and try to improve the quality of life for our residents."

"The National Average for people who have mailed back their questionnaire as of this morning is 66%," **said Utica Census Office Manager Kathleen Cowan.** "I would really like to see our mailback rate in Utica increase. Compared to the National Rate, the City of Utica is lagging behind with a return rate in the low 50's."

The results of the Census will determine how more than \$445 billion in federal funds are distributed to state and local governments annually. Information gathered helps guide local planning decisions including where to provide additional social services, establish child-care and senior centers, build new roads, hospitals, clinics and schools, and determines the locations for job training centers and access to emergency services. It also affects representation in Congress and the Electoral College.

As of today, participation in Oneida County is at 71 percent, which is down 3 percent from the 2000 Census. Herkimer County is at 71 percent down from 76 percent participation in 2000. It is estimated that an area loses approximately \$2,000 per uncounted person in federal funding each year. The national response rate for the 2000 Census was 67 percent, with an estimated undercount of more than 3 million people.

Households have until April 16, 2010 to fill out the 2010 Census form and mail it back. After that date, a Census worker will be sent to every household that has not responded to attempt to collect the information. It costs \$57 to send a census taker to collect the same information contained in the questionnaire that can be mailed back for .42 cents-costing taxpayers as much as \$1.5 billion extra.

**Cowan added,** "while Census Day is officially April 1<sup>st</sup> and the deadline to mail back forms is April 16th, our census activities do not end there. Our largest operation starts on May 1st and wraps up in July. We will be deploying over 1,200 enumerators to retrieve questionnaires that have not been mailed back AND they will also go to homes that did not receive a questionnaire, such as in the case of a person who uses a PO Box in lieu of a street mailing address."

The 2010 Census is one of the shortest in U.S. history, consisting of only ten questions. The Census is conducted every ten years and consists of questions about the number of people living in your home and some demographic information about them.

If you believe you should have received a questionnaire you can call the Census Help Line and request a form at **1-866-872-6868** or you can call or visit the regional satellite offices below:

Syracuse, NY

Utica, NY

Corporate Drive

333 Broad Street

E Syracuse, NY

Utica, NY

(p)1-866-861-2010

(p) 1-315-223-0120

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